EPI Update for Friday, January 31, 2014 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Chikungunya transmission spreads in western hemisphere
- Flu activity update
- New CDC Web site for preventing infections in long-term care facilities
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Chikungunya transmission spreads in western hemisphere

In December, the World Health Organization reported the first local transmission of Chikungunya virus in the Americas. As of this week, local transmission has been confirmed on the islands of Saint Martin/Saint Maarten, Saint Barthelemy, the British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. Further spread to other countries in the region is likely and there is a risk of importation of the virus to the mainland United States through infected travelers.

Chikungunya virus infection should be considered in patients with acute onset of fever, multiple joint pain, and who report recent travel to the Caribbean. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected cases to IDPH to coordinate testing through the CDC.

For more information on Chikungunya, visit www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/

Flu activity update

Flu activity in lowa has been increased from regional to widespread, due to outbreaks of flu-like illness being reported over the last several weeks, primarily in schools across the state. The widespread activity designation indicates wide geographic spread of influenza in lowa; it does not measure the level of influenza activity (i.e. the number of hospitalizations and laboratory confirmations) which has been relatively constant over the last several weeks.

The 2009 H1N1 virus is the predominate strain in Iowa and nationally this season, and this strain is included in all preparations of the flu vaccine. It is not too late to be vaccinated this season.

For more information about influenza in Iowa, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx

New CDC Web site for preventing infections in long-term care facilities

A new CDC website contains infection prevention resources for long-term care facilities. These resources are to be used by clinical staff, residents, and visitors. For more information on preventing infections in long term care facilities, visit www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/

Meeting announcements and training opportunitiesNone

Have a healthy and happy week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology lowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736